GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3029
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2003
SMUGGLING OF STAR TORTOISES
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of sudden spurt in smuggling of Star Tortoises to South East Asian Nations during the last two years;

(b) if so, the number of consignments of Star Tortoises seized during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken to check illegal trade of Star Tortoise in several parts of the country especially in North-West and South-East India ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) During last two years, 10 consignments comprising 6708 Star Tortoises have been seized at the airports of Chennai, Singapore and Kualalumpur.

(c) The State Governments of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have been directed to strengthen their protection machinery at the field level. The Custom Authorities and the Wildlife officials at Chennai and Mumbai are coordinating to check smuggling of Star Tortoises out of the country.